

In the Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of reducing the effect of linear birefringence in an optical fiber, comprising:

(a) heating a length of the optical fiber; and

(b) introducing into the length of said fiber a twist having a predetermined sense of rotation and a twist angle, thereby creating a plurality of sections in said fiber.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising reversing the sense of rotation of the twist between sections after an accumulated twist for previously introduced twists between sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is substantially  $90^\circ$ .

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is less than  $90^\circ$ .

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is greater than  $90^\circ$ .

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a fiber orientation is maintained along the plurality of sections separated by said twist.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising reversing the sense of rotation of the twist between sections after an accumulated twist for previously introduced twists between sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is substantially  $90^\circ$ .

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is less than  $90^\circ$ .

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is less than  $90^\circ$ .

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a cumulative retardance along each of the sections is less than  $180^\circ$ .

14. (Previously Presented) An optical fiber with reduced effects of linear birefringence, comprising:

a length of optical fiber, wherein said fiber comprises a twist separating said fiber into a plurality of fiber sections, and wherein said twist is formed by heating said fiber.

15. (Original) The optical fiber of claim 14, wherein a sense of rotation of the twist between sections along the optical fiber is reversed after an accumulated twist for previously introduced twists between sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

16. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber of claim 14, wherein a twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

17. (Original) The optical fiber of claim 14, wherein the optical fiber is a circular-cored single-mode fiber.

18. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber of claim 14, wherein an orientation of the fiber is maintained along the plurality of sections separated by said twist.

19. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber of claim 18, wherein a sense of rotation of the twist between sections along the optical fiber is reversed after an accumulated twist for previously introduced twists between sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

20. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber of claim 19, wherein a twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ .

21. (Previously Presented) The optical fiber of claim 19, wherein a twist angle between respective ends of the adjacent sections is less than  $90^\circ$ .